

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The claims are 1 and 6 to 8.

The above amendment is responsive to points set forth in the Official Action.

The above amendment directs the claims to a herbicidal composition containing pyrimisulfan and fentrazamide in a ratio of 1 part by mass pyrimisulfan to 1 to 15 parts by mass fentrazamide.

The significance of this amendment will become further apparent from the remarks below.

Claims 1 to 3 and 6 to 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Yoshimura et al. (EP 1101760) in view of Goto et al. (U.S. 5,362,704).

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

While each of pyrimisulfan and fentrazamide are known, the present combination exhibits unexpected results, such results being unexpectedly superior to that which could have been reasonably expected from the teachings of the cited references.

The Official Action contends that one would have been motivated to include pyrimisulfan and fentrazamide because Goto et al. teaches that enhanced herbicidal activity can be exhibited by mixing fentrazamide with a herbicidal sulfonamide.

In response to this contention, Applicants submit herewith a Declaration Under 37 CFR 1.132 showing unexpected results obtained by the present herbicide composition by comparing with various herbicide compositions including a composition of fentrazamide and cyclosulfamuron as disclosed by Goto et al., with different values of mass ratio.

The Declaration also compares mixtures of fentrazamide with other herbicidal sulfonamides.

As apparent from the test results, the combination of fentrazamide and pyrimisulfan produces unexpectedly superior results compared to the combination of fentrazamide with other herbicidal sulfonamides.

There is nothing in Yohsimura et al. which is contrary to this conclusion.

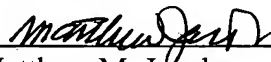
For the foregoing reasons, it is apparent that the rejection on prior art is untenable and should be withdrawn.

No further issues remaining, allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or proposals for expediting prosecution, please contact undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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